

NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY OF  
THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

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NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT  
OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY OF  
THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

FROM

November 1, 1909, to October 31, 1910

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DUNBAR ROWLAND, LL. D.  
DIRECTOR

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LETTER SUBMITTING THE NINTH AND TENTH  
ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY.

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*To the Legislature of the State of Mississippi:*

GENTLEMEN:—We have the honor to submit herewith the Ninth and Tenth Annual Reports of the Director of the Department of Archives and History for the biennial period, November 1, 1909, to October 31, 1911.

In our last letter of transmittal we gave the highest possible endorsement of the historical work of the State, under the direction of Dr. Dunbar Rowland, and urged a liberal increase of appropriations and salaries. We again make that request and urge its importance.

The work of the Historical Department has been so useful, and its achievements so great, that we urge you to make larger appropriations.

We feel that our requests are reasonable in view of the fact that other States appropriate \$25,000.00 a year for the support of historical undertakings and \$5,000.00 a year as the salary of the directors of such important work.

Yours very respectfully,

R. W. JONES,  
EDWARD MAYES,  
J. R. PRESTON,  
R. H. THOMPSON,  
W. B. MURRAH,  
W. T. RATLIFF,  
FRANKLIN L. RILEY,  
J. M. WHITE,  
G. H. BRUNSON,

*Trustees Department of Archives and History.*

JACKSON, MISS., NOV. 15, 1911.



FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND  
HISTORY, FROM OCTOBER 1, 1910, TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1911.

Salary of Director—

For 1910.....	\$ 666 75
For 1911.....	1,333 20

Salary of Assistant—

For 1910.....	333 47
For 1911.....	666 40

Maintenance Fund—

For 1910.....	2,010 91
For 1911.....	2,795 24

Traveling Expenses for 1911..... 243 05

Preparing, Editing, etc., of Publications—

For 1910.....	300 00
For 1911.....	362 80

Total Disbursements, Chapter 35, Laws 1910 .....\$ 8,711 82





The Seal of the Department of Archives and History of the State of Mississippi was provided for in the Code of 1906. It was designed by the Director of the Department November 15, 1906, and was first used as an official seal in February, 1907.

The date, 1540, was the time of the coming of the Spaniards under DeSoto; in 1798 Mississippi Territory was created; the State of Mississippi was admitted into the Union in 1817; the Department of Archives and History was established in 1902.

The scroll with the hand, pen and inscription represent the truth of history as contained in authentic, original documents. The garland of magnolia leaves represents the State Flower of Mississippi.



# NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

## OF THE

### DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

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DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY,

JACKSON, MISS., NOVEMBER 1, 1910.

*To Dr. R. W. Jones, Prof. G. H. Brunson, President J. R. Preston, Dr. F. L. Riley, Prof. J. M. White, Capt. W. T. Ratliff, Judge R. H. Thompson, Judge Edward Mayes, and Bishop W. B. Murrah, Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.*

GENTLEMEN:—I have the honor to submit my ninth administrative and financial report as Director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, covering the period from November 1, 1909, to October 31, 1910.

The various activities which have been mentioned in my previous annual reports continue to occupy the attention of the Department. The work has been very carefully outlined from its inception, and while the main purpose has been the preservation and publication of the sources of Mississippi history, it has extended its usefulness to a much broader field, and there is evidence that its influence has been felt in many States of the Union.

One who has watched the progress of historical investigation in the South for the last ten years, and has come in contact with the work that has been done in developing subjects peculiar to our portion of the country, must marvel at its extent and quality; and I do not think that I am claiming more than we are entitled to when I say that Mississippi has a considerable share in this progress. It is, furthermore, interesting to note, in this connection, that the recent historical movement in the South, and to some extent throughout the country, received a great impulse from the establishment of State-supported historical departments.





in Alabama in 1901, and in Mississippi in 1902. The success that has attended these two pioneer movements in historical investigation has encouraged many other States to give support to the preservation of history. A decade ago State care, preservation and classification of original historical documents were almost unknown in the South, and Southern history was largely written without regard for authentic sources. This calls for a great deal of revision in the future. But there is one thing certain, the original records can never be revised, and he who faithfully follows them in the preparation of history must feel a satisfaction in the knowledge that so much truth has at least been contributed to this branch of learning. There may be those who will question it, for truth long hidden from view, when brought to light, sometimes appears as improbable as fiction. However, the preserved record from which it was taken will always stand sponsor for the printed sheet. Hence, the great importance of its preservation. Such sources, in the past, have been greatly neglected, and where not destroyed outright have been carelessly stored in the attics and cellars of State capitols and other public buildings. Here in a state of confusion they were inaccessible to those who were even willing to make researches.

Under present conditions, the documentary sources of American history in the custody of the States are being made accessible, transcripts of sources in European archives secured, publications of documentary history issued, original papers in private hands collected, and the spirit of historical investigation stimulated to a marked degree. The appropriation of public money by the Southern States for history preservation has caused the universities and colleges to establish better schools of history, and has greatly popularized its study by students and the people generally. But, though we have reached a point where we can compare favorably with many of the more advanced States, the country, as a whole, is just beginning to feel an awakening in the scientific care and use of its historical sources.

#### *Meeting of the Board of Trustees.*

The Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History held its eighth annual meeting in the Hall



of History November 9, 1909, with the following members present: Dr. R. W. Jones, Judge R. H. Thompson, Judge Edward Mayes, President J. R. Preston, Prof. J. M. White, Prof. G. H. Brunson and Dr. F. L. Riley, Dr. R. W. Jones, President of the board, presiding. The annual administrative and financial report of the Director was submitted and approved.

On motion of Professor White, the Legislature was memorialized to make an appropriation of \$3,000.00 for binding classified archives. The selection of four members of the board for a term of six years, beginning January 1, 1910, being in order, Bishop W. B. Murrah was elected to succeed Bishop Charles B. Galloway, Capt. W. T. Ratliff to succeed Gen. Stephen D. Lee, and Judge Edward Mayes and Dr. F. L. Riley to succeed themselves. Judge Edward Mayes was elected Vice-President of the Board to succeed Bishop Charles B. Galloway. The President appointed Judge Mayes, Judge Thompson, and President Preston as the Executive Committee, and Bishop Murrah, Judge Thompson, and Judge Mayes, in addition to the President of the Board and the Director of the Department, as the Portrait Committee.

After a discussion of the progress and future development of the historical interests of the State, the board adjourned to meet in regular session the first week in November, 1910.

R. W. JONES,  
*President.*

DUNBAR ROWLAND,  
*Secretary.*

*New York Meeting of the American Historical Association.*

Among the more important occasions which engage the attention of the Department at the close of each year is the annual meeting of the American Historical Association, which, in this instance, was held in New York City, December 27 to 31, 1909, under the auspices of Columbia University. It marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization, and having a program of exceptional excellence the meeting proved to be one of unusual interest.

As Chairman of the Committee of Seven on the co-operation of Historical Departments and Societies, I attended the meeting



for the purpose of submitting a report on the successful organization of a co-operative movement, by the historical agencies of the Mississippi Valley, for the preparation and publication of a calendar of the French archives relating to American history. This undertaking has been referred to in my reports of 1908 and 1909, and as it had its origin in this Department, and has aroused much interest in historical circles, it seems to be the proper thing to include the history of it, as contained in the reports of the committee to the American Historical Association, in the official publications of the Department. These reports will, therefore, be found as an appendix of this report and will indicate the part taken by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History in the undertaking.

### *Legislation, 1810-1911.*

The bill for the maintenance of the Department of Archives and History for 1910-1911 was introduced in the Senate by Hon. W. K. McLaurin, an able and influential member from the Twelfth District. The appropriation bill for the biennial period, 1910-1911, carries \$15,400.00, a needed increase of \$1,800.00 over the appropriation of 1908-1909, to meet the necessities of the growing interests of the Department.

The Legislature, as a body, has always given its hearty support to the Historical Department, and it speaks well for the State of Mississippi that it now ranks with any in the Union in the care and preservation of its history.

### *Confirmation of Trustees.*

In complying with the terms of the statute which requires that the names of newly-elected Trustees of the Department be sent to the Senate for confirmation, the following communications were sent and received:

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY,  
JACKSON, MISS., January 15, 1910.

TO THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

I have the honor to inform the Senate that at a meeting held by the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and His-





tory, November 9, 1909, Judge Edward Mayes, Capt. W. T. Ratliff, Dr. W. B. Murrah, and Dr. F. L. Riley, were elected trustees of said Department for a term of six years, beginning January 1, 1910.

As provided by law, the names of the trustees-elect are submitted to the Senate for confirmation.

Very respectfully yours,

DUNBAR ROWLAND,

*Secretary.*

The action of the Senate appears in the following communication:

SENATE CHAMBER,

JACKSON, MISS., February 25, 1910.

HON. DUNBAR ROWLAND, Secretary of Board of Trustees, Department of Archives and History of the State of Mississippi:

*Dear Sir:*—This is to advise you that the Senate did, on February 24, 1910, confirm the election of Judge Edward Mayes, Dr. W. B. Murrah, Capt. W. T. Ratliff, and Dr. F. L. Riley as trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, for a term of six years, beginning January 1, 1910.

Yours very respectfully,

FRANK ROBERSON,

*Secretary.*

### *Classification of State Archives.*

The classification of the State Archives preparatory to binding, indexing and calendaring has been conducted on a larger scale this year than formerly and very satisfactory progress has been made. It is difficult to realize the magnitude of such an undertaking, but though it is a task that involves great patience and labor, I am sanguine that it can finally be accomplished by intelligent perseverance. Historians who have used our classified collections heartily commend our system; however, the further development which includes binding, indexing and calendaring, will perfect the system and make the State records as accessible as the words of a dictionary.

### *Publications of the Department.*

The publications of the Department have heretofore been paid for out of the public printing fund of the State. Theoretically,



that plan was a good one, but experience has shown that its practical application was difficult. While the Department was authorized to draw upon the public printing fund for its publications of documentary history, that fund was frequently exhausted when we were ready to issue a volume. Under the new law the Department is provided with a separate appropriation for the various publications which it issues, and under that provision publications can be issued with more regularity.

The law providing for the publication of the Official and Statistical Register directs that it be distributed free of cost to the recipient. This is a wise provision, for the reason that the contents of the Register are of more immediate and universal use to the people, and it is to the advantage of the State that it should have a wide circulation, which could not be secured were there any expense attached to the volumes. A different rule, however, should be adopted in the distribution of the Mississippi archive publications; these appeal to and are needed by the student, and do not concern the average reader so much. The demand from libraries and other educational institutions is very extensive; and when we take into consideration that the State is now in possession of some of the most notable collections of historical transcripts in the United States it is unwise in future to allow these volumes to be sent out free of charge by the Department. I, therefore, suggest that the publications, entitled "Mississippi Provincial Archives," be sold at the fixed price of \$3.00 a volume, that the revenue derived from such sales be used for the purchase of transcripts, or other historical material, and for preparing and editing publications.

### *Transcripts of European Archives.*

The work of transcribing French, English, and Spanish archives concerning Mississippi history has been in progress four years. Few, if any, of the other States of the Union have secured such an extensive collection of documentary material relating to their colonial history as is now on file in the Mississippi Historical Department. The work of transcribing documents in



the archives of England and Spain has been completed, but the copying of French documents is still in progress.

### *Use of the Department's Collections.*

The publication by the Department of Historical Research of the Carnegie Institution, of Washington, of a list of documents in Spanish archives relating to the history of the United States, which includes the Spanish transcripts of this Department, has directed attention to our collections, and even a casual glance over the list will show how rich Mississippi is in this material. No restriction has been placed upon visiting students in the use of our transcripts and original records, and during the past year historians of national reputation have gathered data from the collections of the Department. This liberal policy we believe has brought the State into favor with many historians and students, as not only a profitable but a pleasant field for investigation.

### *Guide to Mississippi Archives.*

The preparation of a guide to the Mississippi archives for the use of investigators has been undertaken and will form a part of the system adopted for classification as that work advances. Such aids are of incalculable value, and any Historical Department having them gains favor in historical circles. It not only lessens the drudgery of making investigations in manuscript sources, but economizes time that could be devoted to the main object.

### *Museum.*

The accessions to the State museum since the last report consist of the well-preserved company flag of the Blount Rifles, a number of rare manuscripts, Indian antiquities, and various relics of Confederate soldiers. Additional cases have been purchased for the reception of these, and special attention is being given to this particular feature, for, as Bishop Charles B. Galloway has wisely observed, this is one of the surest means of stimulating State pride and creating an interest in history among the people.

In England, the British museum is regarded as one of the most valued possessions of the realm, and is conducted by a titled



official appointed by the King, and while we in Mississippi are just beginning to understand the value of such things sufficiently to want them in our midst, it is gratifying to feel that we have marked a course taken by the best civilizations.

### *Portrait of Gen. Jacob H. Sharp.*

An oil portrait of Gen. Jacob H. Sharp was presented by his family through Hon. E. D. Cavette, during the month of February, 1910. General Sharp was a gallant Confederate soldier whose memory should be preserved by the people of Mississippi.

### *Newspaper Files of the Department.*

Newspaper files are now regarded as valuable historical sources when used with caution in connection with original records. The Department has quite a noteworthy collection, and we trust that we shall some day be able to purchase several large and very important files now in private hands.

In connection with this subject, it may be of interest to note that the newspapers of the present day, printed as they are on wood pulp paper, are very perishable. Efforts have been made to induce the publishers to get out a limited edition on durable rag paper, but as yet the suggestion has not been adopted.

The Department has about three hundred and fifty volumes of valuable newspapers ready for binding, which will make their contents easily accessible to the reader, and save much valuable time in the location of data.

### *Binding Documents.*

The binding of historical manuscripts insures them against the injury caused by handling more than any other method of preservation. In the present condition of our records, however, I think it best to wait until the classification now in progress is completed before the bindings are put on. Were we to begin binding now it is possible that after a related series of documents had been bound later searches might reveal documents which belong in that series. Confusion, also, might arise in numbering the





volumes. It is the purpose, however, of the Department to in the future pay especial attention to the binding of manuscript records, for, as we have already observed, nothing preserves records that are constantly being handled more than proper binding. This is especially applicable to the Confederate records which are constantly being handled in giving certificates to veterans procuring pensions.

### *The Laws of Mississippi Territory.*

The Laws of Mississippi Territory, 1799-1817, have been carefully collected and chronologically arranged. There is, I believe, no complete set of these laws in printed form collected in one place. If there is, diligent inquiry has failed to locate it. One of the publications to be issued by the Department soon will contain these laws.

The laws and legislative journals of Mississippi Territory were regularly printed, as is shown by the bids of the printers of Natchez and Washington and by vouchers by the Treasurer of the territory showing payment for printing them.

### *Jefferson Davis Papers.*

The Department has for four years been making a collection of the writings of Jefferson Davis, with a view of editing and publishing several volumes of the material. Valuable additions are being constantly made to the collection, and the undertaking has been received with interest throughout the country. Such a publication as this, bringing together in one place his own words and thoughts, would be of inestimable value in revealing the true position upon public questions of this great Southern leader, and would enable the reader to gather impressions first hand.

### *Assistance to Confederate Veterans.*

Among the numerous certificates given Confederate veterans and their descendants of service rendered by Mississippi soldiers in the Confederate armies are many issued yearly by the Department to veterans seeking pensions. In many instances the applicant has removed to another State, but in all careful investiga-



tion of the records is made in order that nothing may be left undone to enable the old soldiers in procuring pensions. In nearly every instance I have been able to locate their service, for, while there are necessarily some omissions caused by loss of records, both during and after the war, our collection represents one of the largest of any Southern State. And it might be well to say that while the activities of the Department embrace the care and custody of the State records since provincial days, and the records of every period are carefully preserved, no period has received more especial attention than that of the Civil War. By unremitting efforts the original muster rolls, minutes of military boards, order books, correspondence, diaries, scrap books, official reports, telegrams, registers of appointments, newspaper files, and military service blanks filled out by survivors have been collected and carefully preserved. This has formed the basis of the Confederate military history prepared by this Department, that it represents the most reliable sources of Confederate military history is patent to all; and the day has come when it is being recognized that the only correct history is that which is gathered from original records. By that method our contribution will at least be a truthful and accurate one, and that is the most important contribution we can make to history.

#### *Seventh and Eighth Annual Reports.*

The seventh and eighth annual reports were published in one volume, the seventh having as a supplement the military journal of Capt. Isaac Guion, who commanded the expedition charged with the duty of representing the United States in the occupation of the Spanish military posts east of the Mississippi River, in accordance with the terms of the treaty of San Lorenzo el Real. The journal is a valuable contribution to the documentary history of the United States, and the demand for the report containing it has been unusually large.

#### *International Congress of Archives at Brussels.*

At the meeting of the American Historical Association, held in the city of New York, I was appointed as one of the delegates



to represent the Association at the International Congress of Archivists, held in Brussels, August 28-31, 1910. Later the Secretary of the Congress invited me to read a paper dealing with the preservation of original historical sources. After deciding that the interests of the historical work of the State would be greatly advanced by my attendance upon the Congress as a member of the National Public Archives Commission, and delegate of the American Historical Association, I secured a leave of absence from Governor Noel, in accordance with the law, and made my arrangements to attend the Congress. It was a very unusual opportunity, and I trust that the ideas gathered from this great body of scholars will be reflected in our work for Mississippi.

In going over I was very fortunate to have for company Mr. Gaillard Hunt, the scholarly chief of the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress. He was also a delegate from the American Historical Association, and, in addition, was made the official representative of the government and of the Library of Congress. This gave us unusual advantages in meeting foreign officials in every city we visited. We stopped a few days in London and passed the time most profitably studying archive methods in the Public Record Office and in the British Museum. As I have in former reports given a somewhat lengthy account of archive conditions in England, I shall not enlarge upon the subject here any more than to reiterate that the preservation of original historical records in London employs a more scientific method than any, perhaps, in operation in Europe since their idea of concentration enables them to apply rules that permit of a systematic and logical arrangement.

The Brussels International Congress of Archives emphasized as nothing else could so well have done the supreme importance of history, and the advancement shown in archive administration is most marvelous.

Learned historians took part in the discussions, and the papers submitted covered every phase of the subject of the preservation, classification, and publication of archives. Many of them were of a highly technical nature, and very instructive. For my own paper I chose the subject, "The Importance of the Concentration of National Archives," and treated it from the standpoint





of concentration being the surest means of obtaining scientific classification. The subject was suggested to me by my investigations in the national archives at Washington, where the records are scattered in one hundred widely separated repositories, a condition that will always hamper a logical and scientific classification. Much confusion prevails in the care of our national records, and that this condition existed, more or less, in other countries I felt quite sure; hence, the paper submitted appealed to a common interest, and elicited some favorable comment; and, I trust, will have some slight influence in the great movement on foot for the better care of the documentary sources of history.

The Congress afforded a great intellectual opportunity, the city of Brussels was lavish in its entertainment, and the interchange of thought and social courtesies throughout the many sessions by those representing many different nationalities could but be productive of universal benefit. In addition, our own delegation had the hospitalities of the American legation extended it by Hon. Page Bryan, and we, furthermore, enjoyed the attentions of American officials in every place we visited.

### *Study of Archive Repositories.*

During my stay in Brussels I investigated, in so far as the sessions of Congress permitted, the Belgian archives. After leaving Brussels I spent nine days in the study of archive methods in Cologne, Frankfort, Dresden, Berlin, and The Hague. While the archives of Germany and Holland have little relation to Mississippi history, the methods of their preservation by the two countries are worthy of the closest study. The national archives of Holland have been concentrated at The Hague in one building especially constructed for a great record repository. The Dutch are very proud of their history and are liberal in their appropriations for the preservation of historical records.

The German Empire is of such recent origin that no great accumulation of national archives has been made. All the territorial divisions of the Empire have well conducted archive departments, the most important being those of Saxony and Prussia.

During my stay in Frankfort I had the pleasure of being en-



tertained by Dr. Alexander Franz, the scholarly German historian who is writing a history of the Mississippi Valley. Dr. Franz visited us in the spring of 1909 in the prosecution of this undertaking. In connection with this, it is worth while to note that many European historians are writing American history, much of which gives evidence of careful investigation.

### *National Archive Building.*

The very great need of a National Archive Building in Washington is becoming more evident each year. The use of the official archives of the government is now recognized as a necessity in the preparation of history. Under the existing conditions, it is practically impossible to make satisfactory historical investigations.

As we have already observed, the national records as a whole are in a state of confusion, a condition that will yearly grow worse unless there is an entire change in the system of preserving them. This does not apply to the well-kept collection known as the records of the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, which is the best-kept record department in the United States. But this is only a very small handful of the documentary history of the country, and the time has arrived when serious thought must be given its care and preservation.

In the care of our official records we are now passing through the same confusion that existed in England previous to the erection of the Public Record Office in 1856. The archives of the kingdom were scattered about in sixty repositories with but little care or supervision. There was only one way to remedy the situation, and that was concentration in one place where systematic classification could be undertaken.

The policy of concentration has been adopted by England, France, Holland, and Austria, and its adoption by all countries is only a matter of time. The subject is treated here for the reason that legislation for a National Archive Building must be asked for by the various States where the value of special archive repositories is appreciated. Many of the States of the Union are far in advance of the national government in the care and appre-



ciation of historical records, and a popular demand is sure to come for a better system for the preservation of the national archives. Mississippi is in a position to be of some service in the movement, and since we are, along with every other State, vitally concerned in its success, it is certain to receive our approbation and influence.

### *Conclusion.*

The continuance of the various activities now in progress will occupy the attention of the Department during the coming year. The past year has been one of very satisfactory progress. We have already outgrown the quarters assigned us in the capitol, and in a few more years we shall be at a loss how to preserve our collections. On this important subject I beg to refer you to my report of last year, in which the needs of the Department in the matter of more room are fully set forth. Many of the States with large and progressive Historical Departments have a building set apart exclusively for their use, and it is believed that Mississippi will, in a few more years, follow this example.

In conclusion, I not only want to thank the Board of Trustees and the members of the Legislature for their kind co-operation in advancing the best interests of the Department, but the faithful and efficient employees as well, who have so harmoniously worked together for years to bring it up to the high standard maintained by the best institutions of its kind.

Respectfully submitted,

DUNBAR ROWLAND,

*Director.*

### FINANCIAL REPORT SEPTEMBER ARCHIVES AND HISTORY.

Salary of Director—Balance, October 1, 1910.....	\$ 666.75
Balance, October 26, 1910.....	500.10
Salary of Assistant—Balance, October 1, 1910.....	333.47
Balance, October 26, 1910.....	250.17
Maintenance, 1910—Balance, October 1, 1910.....	2,010.91
Balance, October 16, 1910.....	1,887.60
Traveling Expenses, 1910—No balance October 1, 1910.	
Preparing, editing, etc., Publications—Balance, October 1, 1910..	1,200.00
Balance, October 26, 1910.	1,200.00



# APPENDIX

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An account of a co-operative movement in the American Historical Association for the calendaring of French archives relating to the history of the Mississippi basin, proposed by Dr. Dunbar Rowland at the meeting of the Association, held at Madison, Wisconsin, December 27-31, 1907.

See Annual Reports of the American Historical Association of 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910.

## *The Co-operation of State Historical Societies in the Gathering of Material in Foreign Archives.*

If there is a characteristic which differentiates the new school of American historians from the old it is the more extensive use of original historical materials. The exclusive use of printed sources is no longer permissible among scientific historical writers of the present day. While it is not intended to make invidious comparisons, it is quite generally believed that the American investigators of to-day are making a more extensive use of the archives of the English Public Record Office concerning colonial affairs in North America than the historians of the mother country.

In the past a few American historians have had access to the archives of England, France, and Spain, but such private investigations are expensive and can be made only by the favored few. If these invaluable sources are to come into general use it must be through transcripts collected by well-equipped and thoroughly organized historical agencies, such as State departments of archives and history and State-supported historical societies, aided and advised by the Department of Historical Research in the Carnegie Institute of Washington and the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress. If this great work is well done there must be the fullest co-operation on the part of the States interested in it.

It is entirely unnecessary to dwell upon the value and importance of foreign archives in a conference like this, and I shall, therefore, address myself to the practical side of the subject.





The State of Mississippi is interested in the archive collections of the three great colonizing countries of Europe, and is having transcripts made in England, Spain, and France. The work is being done through the State Department of Archives and History, and was inaugurated in the summer of 1906 after a personal study of the materials made by the Director of the Department.

There are seven great foreign repositories of historical materials in which the States of the Union have a vital interest—two in England, two in France, and three in Spain. Many of the States are interested in two of these, some in more, and some in all. The English archives relating to American history are deposited mainly in the Public Record Office and the British Museum. There are, of course, other valuable collections in England which will bear investigation, and the same may be said of France and Spain. In France, possibly, the most valuable collections for American history are in the Ministry of the Marine and the Bibliothèque Nationale. The great repositories of Spanish archives concerning American history are in Madrid, Seville, and Simancas. In a paper like this I shall not be able to dwell upon the history, extent, and character of these great collections.

### *British Archives.*

It is very generally conceded that Great Britain has the most extensive, carefully collected, and best public records in the world. The English have wisely established the policy of concentrating the historical archives of the country in one central repository. This was brought about by what is known as the public record act of 1838, which provides for placing the archives of the nation in one worthy and suitable building, under the custody of the Master of the Rolls. This great plan was finally accomplished by the erection of the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, London. To this splendid edifice have been transferred thousands of tons of the most precious historical treasures of England.

The three great sources of American colonial history in the Public Record Office are: (1) the records called Colonial Papers; (2) the papers of the committee of privy council for plantation affairs, later the board of trade and plantations, which was estab-



lished in the reign of Charles II.; (3) the papers of the Secretary of State, known as "America and West Indies." These collections of well-preserved historical materials of the first class are enough to arouse all the enthusiasm of the investigator. Generally speaking, the documents may be classified as:

(a) Copies of letters, commissions, and instructions from the board of trade, or from the secretary of state, for the settlement, development, and government of the colonies.

(b) Original papers of the colonial governors to the home Government.

(c) Entry books, containing copies of letters from the secretary of state to the governors of the colonies.

(d) Admiralty dispatches from the colonial naval stations to the secretary of the admiralty.

(e) Military papers dealing with military posts and general conditions.

(f) Minutes of the councils and general assemblies of the colonies.

(g) Acts of the colonies.

(h) Journals of the board of trade.

(i) Registers of grants and sales of land.

(j) Manuscript maps and plans; reports of explorations, giving descriptions of the flora, fauna, and geology of the colonies; methods of agriculture; manners, customs, and fighting strength of Indian tribes; treaties with Indians; settlement of boundary disputes, and other interesting materials too numerous to mention.

### *French Archives.*

The historical archives of France have been carefully collected and preserved, but there is a difference in method from that which prevails in England. While the English have established a central repository, for the purpose of concentrating in one place all important national archives, the French have allowed the public records of the nation to remain in the various departments of the government in which they originated. Both nations have shown the same appreciation of the importance of preserving and systematizing historical materials which contains the story of two great colonial civilizations.

The archives of the Ministry of the Marine relating to American history may be classified for present purposes as:

(a) Royal charters, proclamations, orders, permissions, and decrees, relating to the discovery, exploration, and settlement of the Mississippi Valley.



(b) Ministerial correspondence, letters sent and letters received, including plans and instructions for the equipment of fleets on voyages of discovery and location of settlements.

(c) General correspondence of the colonial governors relating to the settlement and government of the colonies and the daily administration of affairs.

(d) Codes, regulations, lists of colonies, and rosters of troops, officers, and sailors.

(e) Civil acts, notarial, judicial, and ministerial.

(f) Reports of explorers, traders, trappers, and military officers relating to description of the country and trade with the Indians; papers concerning the organization of companies for the development of the country.

(g) Documents dealing with land grants, trading and mining rights.

(h) Accounts showing the sums expended in the exploration of the country.

(i) Papers relating to the establishment of missions by the Jesuits.

(j) Manuscript maps and plans.

### *Spanish Archives.*

It is sufficient for the purpose of this discussion to state that the great repositories of Spanish archives relating to American history are in Madrid, Seville, and Simancas. The same general classification which has been given the English and French materials applies to the Spanish archives. While these documents are not of the same general interest to all parts of the United States as those having English or French origin, they are of the greatest possible value to the States of the South. The Spanish materials contain the very beginning of the exploring and colonizing forces operating in America, which founded a great colonial empire before England and France realized the possibilities of trade and commerce with the New World. The English, French, and Spanish historical materials are, therefore, the best fields for the activities of American historical agencies in the collections of transcripts.

### *Selection of Documents.*

In making arrangements with foreign archivists for transcripts it is necessary that great care be used in designating the documents which are to be copied. If care is not exercised, a large sum might be easily expended on transcripts that are not wanted or that have already been copied or printed. In order



to avoid this danger, full, complete, and explicit written instructions should be given. In placing an order for transcripts of Spanish archives relating to Mississippi history, which are deposited in the Archives of the Indies in Seville, the following instructions were given for the guidance of the archivists, and as they may be of some service in new transcript undertakings, I give them in full:

Suggestions for making an investigation of documentary historical material of Louisiana and West Florida, concerning the State of Mississippi, United States of America, deposited in the archives of the Indies at Seville, Spain.

1. The investigation should cover that period of time extending from 1779 to 1798-1813 (a part of our State being evacuated in 1798 and part in 1813), or from the beginning to the end of the Spanish occupation. It will also be well to include a period of two years immediately preceding the military operations of Galvez in order that full details may be obtained.

2. Papers in general relating to Biloxi, Natchez, Mobile, Pass Christian, Fort Charlotte, Dauphine Island, Baton Rouge, Los Nogales or Walnut Hills, Manchac, Fort St. Louis, Yazoo, and Fort Tombecbe, as well as to any sort of settlement on the east bank of the Mississippi River, or in the territory included between the river, 31 degrees and 35 degrees north latitude, and east of the Chattahoochee River.

3. Correspondence of the officers commanding at the posts designated in No. 2, including correspondence or instructions to them from the captain-general or from the home government; papers from or to Callett, Treveno, Miro, Piernas, Dauligny, Grand Pre, Gayoso de Lemos, Espeleta, Folch, Lanzas, and Minor, etc.; and the correspondence of the several governors of Louisiana and West Florida, including O'Reilly, Unzaga, De La Torre, Galvez, Miro, Carondelet, and Casa Calvo.

4. Papers concerning the surrounding Indian tribes in any way, such as treaties and trade with, purchase of land from, and bestowal of presents on, including Creeks, also written "Cricks" and "Creeks"; Talpuches; Chicachas, also written "Chicasas," "Choctas," etc.; also correspondence and dealings of Alejandro McGillivray, Bowles, and other representatives of the Indians in their relations with the Spaniards and the Americans, so far as the sense of such dealings was laid in the territory described in No. 2.

5. Papers dealing with explorations by land or water, especially of such rivers as the Mississippi, from the mouth to 35 degrees north, the Pearl, Iberville, Yazoo, Mobile, Tombecbe, St. Catherine, Homochitto, and Big Black, also the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, being now the southern





coast of Mississippi and Alabama, also the interior to the north between the Mississippi River on the west, the Chattahoochee River on the east, and the thirty-fifth degree of latitude on the north.

6. Papers relating to the boundaries of Louisiana and West Florida and to the boundary commission (*Comision de Limites*).

7. Maps of any part of the coast or rivers, posts, forts, settlements, or boundaries of the territory described in No. 5.

8. Land grants in the same territory described in No. 5, giving only grantor, grantee, where situated, and quantity of land granted.

9. Descriptions of the country by traders, explorers, hunters, trappers, or others passing through the territory under consideration.

10. Orders, proclamations, or letters from the home government relative to the exploration, settlement and regulation of the territory.

11. Do not copy documents that have been printed or reproduced by photographic process.

### *Co-operation of Historical Agencies.*

If the work of securing transcripts of foreign archives proceeds entirely along independent lines, there must necessarily be quite a waste of energy and money. How to prevent such waste by intelligent, systematic co-operation is the question. It seems that very many of the problems may be solved by the affiliation and co-operation of the States having a common object. To illustrate: The entire Mississippi Valley has a common interest in the archives of France, but it would be entirely unnecessary and very unwise for a State to attempt to secure transcripts of all materials concerning the Valley of the Mississippi which are deposited in French repositories. It is very necessary, however, for each State to secure copies of the documents which bear directly upon its history. In addition to such a series of documents, it will be found necessary, also, for each State to have certain papers which are fundamental, such as charters and organic acts. While duplication is to be avoided, it is necessary to a certain extent. To avoid unnecessary duplication is one of the problems to be worked out. If each State confines itself to those documents which are of the first importance to its history, the problem of duplication will, in a large measure, be solved. To accomplish this it is necessary that a careful preliminary study of the series of documents from which transcripts are desired should be made, and such a study can only be made by one hav-



ing wide knowledge of local State history supplemented by an archivist who fully understands his collections. This preliminary study is of the first importance.

The next step to be taken is the preparation of a calendar of those documents which have been found to be essential to the State making the investigation. This calendar should be carefully studied for the purpose of indicating the papers to be transcribed. These calendars should be printed in the reports of the departments and societies and transmitted to the Carnegie Institution of Washington and to the manuscript division of the Library of Congress. By this means these great historical agencies could act as clearing houses for the local departments and societies throughout the Union. By means of such reports a common source of information would be provided which could be drawn upon at any time.

### *Tentative Suggestions.*

I take it that this conference is intended to be only the beginning of a movement which has for its object the ultimate collection of all European sources of American history by either national or State agencies. From a national standpoint, this undertaking is being admirably conducted by the Library of Congress and the Carnegie Institution, and many States are doing good work along local lines. In working out the problem from the standpoint of the States, the following tentative suggestions are offered for the consideration of the conference:

1. In the collection of documents concerning national history the historical agencies of Washington should have an exclusive field.
2. All the States should supplement the national collections by securing the documents which deal primarily with the local history of each State.
3. In order to secure the best results, there should be worked out a plan for the fullest co-operation of the States having common interests.
4. In securing transcripts a thorough study of the collections to be used should be made by one having special fitness for the work.
5. Each collecting agency should confine itself strictly to materials which are primarily essential to the history of the State which it represents.



6. The States should report promptly and fully to a central agency on all transcripts collected.

7. This conference should refer this entire question to a committee of seven appointed at this meeting, with instructions to report at its next annual session.

The work of collecting from foreign archives the materials of American history is one of the most important undertakings which can engage the attention of the historians of the country; and if this conference can give additional impulse to such a movement, it will have accomplished much for the advancement of scientific history.

Mr. Rowland's paper was discussed at considerable length by Prof. C. W. Alvord, of the University of Illinois, who presented various possible methods by which the field of historical work might be apportioned among the historical societies of the Mississippi Valley; and more briefly by Dr. J. F. Jameson, of the Department of Historical Research in the Carnegie Institution of Washington; by Mr. C. S. Paine, of the Nebraska Historical Society, and by Mr. R. G. Thwaites. Mr. Paine referred to the recently organized Mississippi Valley Historical Society as affording a practical method of securing co-operation. As a result of this discussion it was voted, on motion of Mr. Rowland, that a committee of seven be appointed by the Chairman of this conference for the purpose of formulating and reporting at the next annual meeting a plan for the co-operation of State historical societies and departments in the collecting and publication of historical materials in the form of transcripts or original documents, and that the committee be authorized to report fully and completely upon the subject referred to it. The Chairman subsequently appointed the following committee: Dunbar Rowland, Chairman, Mississippi Department of Archives and History; J. Franklin Jameson, Carnegie Institution; Evarts B. Greene, University of Illinois; Thomas M. Owen, Alabama Department of Archives and History; Benjamin F. Shambaugh, Iowa State University; R. G. Thwaites, Wisconsin State Historical Society; Worthington C. Ford, Division of Manuscripts, Library of Congress.



*Submitted at the Richmond Meeting of the American Historical Association, Held December 28-31, 1908.*

First upon the programme, following the report of the Secretary, came the report of the committee appointed at the fourth conference, in 1907, to consider the question of co-operative enterprises by historical societies. The report, read by Dr. Dunbar Rowland, Chairman of the Committee, is of such importance as to warrant its inclusion in full in this report of the conference.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES AND DEPARTMENTS TO THE CONFERENCE OF STATE AND LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES OF THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION.

The Committee of seven on Co-operation of Historical Societies and Departments submits the following report of progress:

The first conference of the historical societies represented in the American Historical Association was held in the library of the Reynolds Club House, University of Chicago, December 29, 1904. Since that time the conference has been one of the regular features of the annual meetings of the association. At the first meeting co-operation along the lines of publication was discussed, but no practical plan was suggested. It was quite generally conceded that co-operation among historical societies, having interests in common, was very desirable if the proper field could be agreed upon. Since the first conference the idea of co-operation has been growing and taking form.

#### CONFERENCE AT MADISON.

At the meeting of the association, held at Madison, December 27-31, 1907, one of the subjects for discussion in the conference was "The co-operation of state historical societies and departments in the gathering of material in foreign archives." That discussion led to the appointment of a committee of seven, charged with the duty, as stated in the minutes of the secretary, "Of formulating and reporting at the next annual meeting a plan for the co-operation of State historical societies and departments in the collection and publication of historical material in the form of transcripts of original documents; that the committee be authorized to report fully and completely upon the subjects referred to it."

The chairman of the conference appointed the following committee: Dunbar Rowland, Chairman; J. E. Jameson, Evarts B. Greene, R. G. Thwaites, Worthington C. Ford, B. F. Shambaugh, and Thomas M. Owen.

An informal meeting of the committee was held in Madison, December





31, before adjournment of the association, in the North Museum Hall of the Wisconsin State Historical Library, for the purpose of fixing a time for the consideration of the subject assigned; and it was decided that the chairman should call a meeting to be held in Washington, April 16, 1908, in the office of the Department of Historical Research of the Carnegie Institution. At this meeting it was further decided that each member of the committee should make a preliminary study of the field assigned to it.

#### INDIVIDUAL SUGGESTIONS TO COMMITTEE.

In a circular letter of March 12, 1908, to the members of the committee, it was suggested, in order that the subject might be considered to better advantage, that each member submit to his colleagues, at least two weeks in advance of April 16, 1908, a memorandum of plans of co-operation for the consideration of the full committee. A majority responded, and the following fields for co-operation were suggested:

**FIRST.** Co-operation in searches of foreign archive repositories, such as the English Public Record Office, the French Ministry of the Colonies, and the Spanish archives of the Indies; the work to consist not merely of preliminary surveys but of a full descriptive calendar of large collections of documents relating to American history.

**SECOND.** Co-operation in copying archives in European repositories with the view of securing more accurate transcripts for the use of American historians. In this connection attention was called to the very grave defects in the copies hitherto secured, arising possibly out of a want of local knowledge on the part of foreign copyists.

**THIRD.** Co-operation in securing photographic reproductions of European archives concerning American history, with the view of diminishing expense and securing fac similes the accuracy of which could not be questioned.

**FOURTH.** Co-operation in the publication of documentary history common to a group of States, the publication being limited to common fundamental sources.

**FIFTH.** Co-operation in periodical publications, such as historical magazines or quarterlies, for the purpose of supplying a common medium of information for certain geographical divisions of the country.

The points above given were suggested in one form or another by all members of the committee submitting plans for co-operation. This unanimity without previous consultation may be taken as fairly conclusive that the committee centered upon those plans the adoption of which would lead to the best results.



## COMMITTEE MEETING AT WASHINGTON.

At the meeting of the committee in Washington all the members were present, with the exception of Doctor Owen, of Alabama, who sent a letter stating that important duties at home prevented his attendance. Evarts B. Greene was elected secretary.

It seemed to be the opinion of the committee from the beginning that the best field for the co-operation of historical societies lay in the Mississippi Valley, where so many States were vitally interested in the archives of France. It was pointed out that Mississippi, Louisiana, and Wisconsin had already taken steps to secure accurate transcripts from the archive collections in Paris, and that other historical agencies were considering similar undertakings.

It has been found that one of the most serious objections to an independent undertaking for the collection of transcripts of European archives is the heavy expense of searching and calendaring. To be more explicit: In placing an order for transcripts of all documents concerning Mississippi in the series of archive volumes known as "*Correspondence generale Louisiane*," it was necessary to have every document of the series read before the work of calendaring could be done. The reading of 55 large manuscript volumes is a serious undertaking, and calls for quite a waste of time, energy, and money. Now, there are 15 States or more which are interested in that series, as it contains the history of the French domination over the entire Mississippi Valley. Suppose that the historical agencies of these States should join in a movement for the searching and calendaring of such materials; in that event the expense would be divided into 15 equal parts, it could be easily met, and the undertaking would result in lasting benefit to the historical interests of the entire country.

In view of these considerations, your committee agreed to consider first the general subject of searching European archives for material relating to the Mississippi basin as the most promising field for co-operative effort. In this connection Doctor Jameson presented to the committee "Notes on material in the French archives relating to the history of the Mississippi Valley," prepared by W. G. Leland, the agent of the Department of Historical Research of the Carnegie Institution, at present engaged in the preparation of a guide to French archives relating to American history. The notes prepared by Mr. Leland were very helpful to the committee and pointed out the location of the most conspicuous groups of historical material in which the States of the Mississippi basin are concerned. They also served to emphasize the very great importance of these sources to the proper understanding of the struggle between England, France, and Spain for the control of a continent.

In the discussion which followed three important conclusions were reached. First, that it is very desirable that the French archives relating



to the Mississippi Valley should be made accessible in the United States; second, that it is not possible for one agency to secure a complete set of such transcripts; third, that it is possible to secure a complete set by co-operative effort.

#### EXPLANATORY.

It is probably unnecessary to attempt even a brief survey of the collections in the French archives as sources of Mississippi Valley history. Such a survey is outside of the province of this report. An exhaustive study of these archives is now being made by the Department of Historical Research of the Carnegie Institution, the results of which will be given to students in due time.

It is necessary, however, to say that the French archives afford the richest field of practically unexplored material concerning the lower South and the middle West that is to be found in European repositories. In no other collection can such good results be obtained. These archives are to the middle West and lower South what the collections of the English Public Record Office are to the Atlantic States. In other words, they are the fundamentals in the settlement and government of a territory of great resources and unbounded possibilities.

In the selection of the Mississippi Valley as the first field for co-operative effort your committee does not wish to be understood as taking the position that no other group of States affords similar opportunities, or of recommending that such efforts should be confined to the Mississippi Valley alone. The position of the committee is that at present conditions are more favorable to the accomplishment of successful co-operation there than elsewhere. If the plan succeeds in the Mississippi Valley it is to be expected that it will be adopted by other States having interests in common.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS.

In view of the premises, your committee submits for consideration the following recommendations:

**FIRST.** That the historical agencies of the Mississippi Valley join in a co-operative search of the French archives for historical material relating to the States embraced in that territory.

**SECOND.** That a complete working calendar of all material in these archives relating to the Mississippi basin be prepared by an agent appointed by the representatives of the conference having the matter in hand.

**THIRD.** That the calendar, when completed, be published and distributed under the direction of the representatives of the conference.

**FOURTH.** That the necessary money for the preparation, publication, and distribution of the calendar be raised by voluntary contributions from the historical agencies represented in the conference.

Your committee believes that it is safe in reporting that the cost of preparing this calendar will not exceed \$2,000. This estimate is made



in view of the fact that officials of the archives of the colonies in Paris have already prepared in manuscript a calendar of the large and important series of volumes called "*Correspondance generale, Louisiane*," and that thus a portion of the work contemplated is done. This calendar is expected to be printed; if it is not, a copy of it can doubtless be procured.

The committee further agreed to recommend that, in the absence of strong special reasons to the contrary, state historical societies and similar organizations should refrain from large plans for the transcribing and printing of foreign archives until the descriptive list above referred to has been prepared, and until the processes of photographic reproduction have been more fully advanced and more thoroughly studied.

Very respectfully submitted,

DUNBAR ROWLAND, *Chairman*,

J. F. JAMESON,

WORTHINGTON C. FORD.

R. G. THWAITES,

EVARTS B. GREENE,

THOMAS M. OWEN.

B. F. SHAMBAUGH.

After the report had been read and the matter had been thrown open for discussion, Dr. Rowland pledged for the historical department of his own State the sum of \$200, and said he was authorized also to promise the same for the Department of Archives and History of Alabama. Upon this, other promises were made of an informal nature. In answer to an inquiry, Dr. Rowland stated that the sums desired would be wanted in the course of the next year to take advantage of Mr. Leland's presence in Paris. After further discussion, upon motion, it was resolved that the same committee should be continued and that the conference should authorize the committee to correspond with the proper officers of the various State historical departments with regard to the financial co-operation proposed by Dr. Rowland's committee. As a result of further discussion, it was voted to leave it to the discretion of the committee to wait for the subscription of the entire sum necessary before proceeding to the work or to go ahead as soon as reasonable appropriations were pledged.





## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATION OF HISTORICAL DEPARTMENTS AND SOCIETIES

*To the Conference of Historical Societies of the American Historical Association.*

The Committee of seven on Co-operation of Historical Departments and Societies submits the following report:

This conference of the historical societies and departments affiliated with the American Historical Association had its origin in the idea that such organizations, for the preservation of history, had, perhaps, become too self-satisfied with their achievements, too much engrossed in the contemplation of the development of their own States and of the impress they had made on the nation, and too much given to old methods of administration to be doing very effective work. It was felt that the historical agencies of the country were wasting time and money in independent research, which could be better performed by co-operative effort. That such conditions existed was clearly brought out at the first conference held in Chicago in 1904, and the meetings of each year since have convinced us that co-operation is the cure for the wasteful and ineffective methods into which the historical societies of the country had fallen.

This awakened consciousness of the necessity for co-operative activities had its origin among historical agencies of the Mississippi Valley, and is doubtless attributable to some extent to the fact that historical work in the South and middle West is largely supported by the State. This, connected with a common interest in the French occupation of the Valley of the Mississippi, enabled your committee to suggest, at the Richmond meeting, a plan for co-operative work in the French archives.

At the Richmond meeting the following recommendations of the committee were adopted by the Conference:

**FIRST.** That the historical agencies of the Mississippi basin join in a co-operative search of the French archives for historical material relating to the States embraced in that territory.

**SECOND.** That a complete working calendar of all material in the French archives, relating to the Mississippi basin, be prepared by an agent appointed by the representatives of the Conference having the matter in hand.

**THIRD.** That the calendar, when completed, be published and distributed under the direction of the representatives of the Conference.

**FOURTH.** That the necessary money for the preparation, publication, and distribution of the calendar be raised by voluntary contributions from the historical agencies represented in the Conference.



That a distinct advance has been made in the method for the study of the French sources of American History by the plan reported and adopted at the Richmond meeting is generally conceded. The purpose of this report, therefore, is to inform the Conference of the progress made since the last meeting.

It has been conservatively estimated that the preparation of a comprehensive calendar of French archives concerning American history will cost \$2,000.00; and that amount has been raised by subscriptions from the historical agencies holding membership in the American Historical Association, and represented in this Conference. One thousand dollars was pledged at the Richmond Conference by the Alabama Department of Archives and History, the Illinois Historical Library, the Iowa Historical Society, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and the Wisconsin Historical Society. Since that time subscriptions amounting to \$1,000.00 have been secured from the Chicago Historical Society, the Howard Memorial Library, the Indiana Historical Society, the Kansas Historical Society, the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society, and the Missouri Historical Society. The sum contributed by each follows:

Alabama Department of Archives and History.....	\$ 200.00
Chicago Historical Society.....	50.00
Howard Memorial Library.....	200.00
Illinois Historical Library.....	200.00
Indiana Historical Society.....	200.00
Iowa Historical Society.....	200.00
Kansas Historical Society.....	100.00
Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society.....	200.00
Mississippi Department of Archives and History.....	250.00
Missouri Historical Society.....	200.00
Wisconsin Historical Society.....	200.00
Total .....	<u>\$2,000.00</u>

The greater part of the necessary funds had been contributed by May 1, 1909, and the success of the undertaking was assured at that time, but the committee deemed it best, before making arrangements to begin work on the calendar, to have definite pledges for \$2,000.00. In order, however, that no time should be lost after the money was in sight a tentative plan for the preparation of the calendar was agreed upon at a meeting of the committee in Washington.

The Department of Historical Research of the Carnegie Institution has been engaged for some time in the preparation of a guide to the French archives in so far as they relate to American history. The work is being done by Mr. Waldo G. Leland, the secretary of the Association and of this Conference. This employment has given Mr. Leland an



extensive knowledge of the archives to be calendared, which is an essential equipment to work of the nature in which we are to engage. It is of the first importance that the calendar be prepared under the direction and supervision of an American student of American history; it is also necessary that he should be a skilled archivist and investigator. To secure the services of such a man was not easy; and the consideration of that problem occupied the attention of the committee for many months. Its solution is due to the generous co-operation of Dr. J. F. Jameson, Director of the Department of Historical Research of the Carnegie Institution, and of Mr. Leland, his assistant. Dr. Jameson was requested by the committee to ascertain if Mr. Leland's other duties would allow him to undertake the direction and supervision of a complete calendar of French archives relating to American history. After going over the situation together Dr. Jameson and Mr. Leland decided that the work could be done in connection with the compilation of the guide to French historical materials. Mr. Leland has undertaken the work purely as a labor of love and freely gives his valuable services to the committee without compensation. The Conference is indeed fortunate in this happy solution of the problem of supervision; for an authoritative piece of work is now assured.

The organization of the undertaking will be left largely to the discretion of Mr. Leland. He is authorized to employ all necessary assistants and has full authority as to details. It is the wish of the committee to make the calendar as complete and comprehensive as possible; and with this idea in view no limitation as to dates to be covered has been laid down.

Dr. J. F. Jameson has been appointed treasurer of the calendar fund, and subscriptions will be sent to him, addressed to Bond Building, Washington, D. C. Contributors will be notified when their subscriptions are needed.

While it is somewhat difficult to give an exact estimate of the time required for the completion of the calendar, it is believed that the work can be done by the director and four assistants in about one year. You may be assured, however, that the undertaking will not be rushed at the expense of accuracy and thoroughness.

The work of calendaring the French archives has been carefully organized, and is being pushed as rapidly as a high standard of accuracy will permit.

Before closing its annual report of progress your committee expresses its deep obligation to the historical agencies contributing to the success of the undertaking with which it has been charged by the Conference. It is expected that this pioneer movement, looking to the co-operation of historical agencies in common fields of activity, is but the beginning of a work of supreme importance, which, in time, may bring about the co-operation of the original Thirteen States in calendar-



ing the English archives, and of the Pacific Coast States and Texas in doing similar work in the Archives of Spain. The committee has made a notable beginning, and better things are confidently looked for, when the possibilities of co-operation are better understood.

Respectfully submitted,

DUNBAR ROWLAND, *Chairman*,  
 WORTHINGTON C. FORD,  
 EVARTS B. GREENE,  
 J. F. JAMESON,  
 THOMAS M. OWEN,  
 B. F. SHAMBAUGH,  
 R. G. THWAITES.

Submitted at the New York meeting of the American Historical Association, held December 27-30, 1909.

Report approved and committee continued.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES AND DEPARTMENTS.

*To the Conference of State and Local Historical Societies of the American Historical Association.*

The Committee of seven on Co-operation of Historical Societies and Departments submits the following report of progress:

The last report of the committee, submitted to the Conference at its meeting in New York, December 28, 1909, stated that the funds necessary for the preparation of a calendar of French archives concerning the Mississippi Valley had been subscribed, and that the work had begun, under the direction of Mr. W. G. Leland, of the Department of Historical Research of the Carnegie Institution. Mr. Leland has submitted the following report to the committee of the work of the past year:

#### REPORT OF WORK ON THE CALENDAR OF DOCUMENTS IN THE FRENCH ARCHIVES RELATING TO THE HISTORY OF THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY.

Active work on the calendar was commenced in November, 1909, as soon as the guarantee fund had been secured. A large portion of the field to be gone over had already been covered by the Carnegie Institution, in summary fashion, but in such way that the results of that work will aid largely and materially in the preparation of the calendar. A single assistant was employed, at \$30 a month, until October, 1910, since which time another assistant, at \$40, has been secured. This second assistant, M. Doysie, will be capable of carrying the work to completion after my return to America.





Most of the work in the foreign office and in the National library has now been completed, and my own notes will be nearly sufficient for the war office. The principal bodies of archives to search, after the work in the three already mentioned has been completed, are the National Archives, the Archives of the Marine, and the Archives of the Colonies.

A complete manuscript list has already been made of the documents in the *Correspondence Generale, Louisiane*, by an official of the Archives of the Colonies. This has been offered to me for 500 francs, and I intend to take it, for it will save much time to use it.

A list has also been made of all the documents from the French archives relating to Louisiana, noted in Stevens' Manuscript Index of Documents in European archives relating to America, between 1763 and 1783, the Index being in the Library of Congress.

I have found it better to employ a small number of assistants and to supervise their work closely, than to employ a larger number whose work I should be obliged to take more or less on faith.

The work in the archives should be completed in December, 1911, or at the latest by June, 1912, it being necessary to allow a certain latitude as to time. The calendar should be ready to print during the year of 1912. It is preferred to arrange the entries in chronological order, each entry having also a number. Each entry will contain so far as possible, the following data: Date, place of writing, author, person to whom sent, title of document, if any, description of contents, mentioning especially names of places, persons, tribes, rivers, etc., etc.; character of document, *i. e.*, original copy, translation, signatures, etc., length, and location in the archives.

It is not probable that much will be found of date later than 1804, but the search will be carried on in the foreign office until 1848, and in the other repositories as late as is permitted, *i. e.*, about 1850.

Respectfully submitted,

Paris, November 30, 1910.

W. G. LELAND.

Since the last report was submitted the State Historical Society of Missouri has subscribed \$150.00 to the fund.

Dr. J. F. Jameson, Treasurer of the Mississippi Valley Fund, has submitted his financial report as follows:

#### STATEMENT OF THE TREASURER OF THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY FUND.

##### RECEIPTS.

Wisconsin Historical Society .....	\$200 00
Indiana Historical Society .....	200 00
Mississippi Department of Archives and History.....	250 00
Missouri Historical Society .....	200 00
	<hr/>
	\$850 00



## EXPENDITURES.

Services: Mlle. Bossart, chs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9.....	\$169 12
F. M. Dennis, chs. 6, 8, 10.....	52 00
W. G. Leland, for subsequent clerical aid in Paris by Mlle. Bossart and M. Daysie, chs. 11, 12.....	400 00— 621 12
Balance on hand December 13, 1910.....	\$228 88

The remainder of the fund subscribed will be paid to the Treasurer when it is needed.

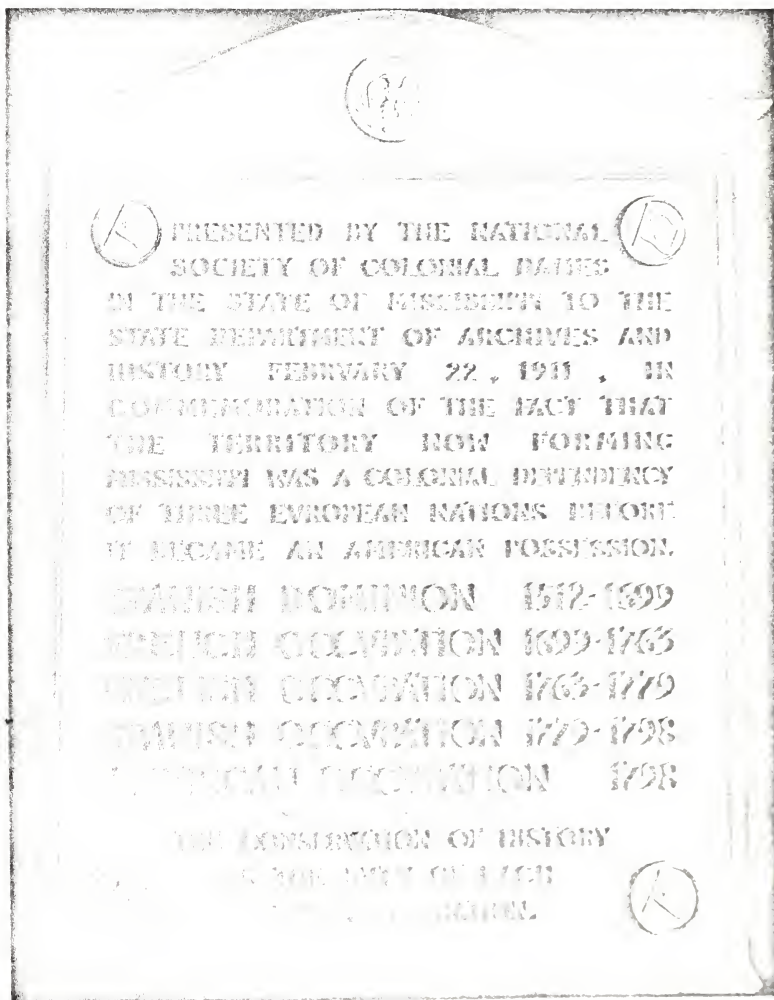
Very respectfully submitted,

DUNBAR ROWLAND, *Chairman*,  
J. F. JAMESON,  
R. G. THWAITES,  
WORTHINGTON C. FORD,  
THOMAS M. OWEN,  
EVARTS B. GREENE,  
B. F. SHAMBAUGH.

Submitted at the Indianapolis meeting of the American Historical Association, December 27-30, 1910.

Report approved and committee continued.





FAC SIMILE OF BRONZE TABLET PRESENTED BY COLONIAL  
DAMES OF MISSISSIPPI

THE DESIGN WAS MADE, AND THE INSCRIPTION COMPOSED BY MRS. DUNBAR ROWLAND,  
ASSISTANT, MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY



TENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT  
OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY OF  
THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

FROM

November 1, 1910, to October 31, 1911

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DUNBAR ROWLAND, LL. D.  
DIRECTOR

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NASHVILLE, TENN.  
PRESS OF BRANDON PRINTING COMPANY

1912





TENTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

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DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY,  
JACKSON, MISS., NOVEMBER 1, 1911.

*To Dr. R. W. Jones, Bishop W. B. Murrah, Hon. J. R. Preston,  
Judge Edward Mayes, Capt. W. T. Ratliff, Judge R. H.  
Thompson, Dr. F. L. Rilcy, Prof. G. H. Brunson, and Prof.  
J. M. White, Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Ar-  
chives and History.*

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to submit my tenth annual report as Director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, covering the period from November 1, 1910. to October 31, 1911.

Before taking up the activities of the current year, I take the privilege of referring to the fact that it is now very near ten years since the organization of this Department. We had faith in the idea of State-supported historical work from the beginning and it is gratifying to know that the plan is now generally accepted as the best method of history preservation. We never doubted the ultimate success of our undertaking, but sooner than we expected it became an accepted fact among us, which speaks well for the higher aspirations of our people.

Five members of this board have been with us from the beginning, four joined us at a later period. To you all am I indebted for the completest co-operation. If it is possible to err in giving a free hand you may have done so, for, from the beginning, it has been your policy to give me the greatest possible freedom in the development of a work which has occupied my thought for the past ten years. I may, perhaps, be pardoned for saying to you that these years have been full of many varied and difficult



tasks which have grown with each passing year. But while that is true, it is also true that it has been congenial, satisfying labor. It is only natural that there should be a love for a work which has filled ten years of one's life. Add to that the feeling which comes from creation and you will understand my relation to this work. I could not say less on this, the tenth anniversary of our association together.

### *Meeting of Board of Trustees.*

The Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History held its ninth annual meeting in the Hall of History, November 2, 1910, with the following members present: Judge Edward Mayes, Bishop W. B. Murrah, Judge R. H. Thompson, Prof. G. H. Brunson, Dr. F. L. Riley, Prof. J. M. White, and Hon. J. R. Preston. Dr. Jones was absent on account of illness and Capt. Ratliff on account of conflicting engagements. In the absence of Dr. Jones, Judge Mayes, Vice-President of the board, presided.

The annual report of the Director was read, discussed, and approved.

On the recommendation of the Director, it was unanimously voted:

That volumes of documentary history hereafter to be published be sold at the rate of \$3.00 a volume, and that the revenue derived from such sales be used for the purchase of transcripts, or other historical material, for preparing and editing publications or for other purposes.

Thereupon, upon motion, the board adjourned.

DUNBAR ROWLAND,  
*Secretary.*

EDWARD MAYES,  
*Vice-President, Presiding.*

### *Meeting of American Historical Association.*

The twenty-sixth annual meeting of the American Historical Association was held in Indianapolis, December 27-30, 1910.



This meeting is a most important event in the historical circles of the United States, and it has been my custom to attend since I have been engaged in this work. Very many of the more important activities looking to history preservation have their beginnings in the Association.

In my last report attention was called to the necessity for the adoption of a new policy for the preservation and conservation of the national archives. That idea was made the subject of a paper which I submitted to the International Congress of Archivists, held in Brussels, August 28-31, 1910.

In arranging the program for the Indianapolis meeting the Secretary of the Association invited me to prepare a paper on "The Concentration of State and National Archives." The purpose of the paper was to awaken an interest in a plan for the erection in Washington of a National Archives Building, similar to the English Public Record Office, in London, for the preservation, care, and classification of the official archives of the United States, which are now stored in about one hundred unsuitable buildings in the National Capitol. In connection with that subject the Association took the following action:

VOTE OF THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, INDIANAPOLIS,  
DECEMBER 30, 1910.

The American Historical Association, concerned for the preservation of the records of the National Government, as muniments of our national advancement, and as material which historians must use in order to ascertain the truth; and aware that the records are in many cases now stored where they are in danger of destruction by fire, and in places which are not adapted to their preservation, and where they are inaccessible for administrative and historical purposes; and knowing that many of the records of the Government have in the past been lost or destroyed, because suitable provision for their care and preservation was not made, do respectfully petition the Congress of the United States to take such steps as may be necessary to erect in the City of Washington a national archive depository, where the records of the Government may be concentrated, properly cared for, and preserved.

*Jefferson Davis Papers.*

I regard the collection of material for a life of Jefferson Davis as one of the Department's most important activities. The



progress of this undertaking has been reported each year since its inception. Since the last report, the collection of Davis papers has been more rapid than usual. This was brought about by my examination of the official and private papers of Mr. Davis, which were presented by Mrs. Davis to the Confederate Memorial Hall, in New Orleans. I made a careful study of the collection during January and February of the present year and selected quite a large number of letters and documents which threw much new light on some of the most important incidents in Mr. Davis's career. These have been carefully copied, are now on file in the Department, and make about two thousand pages of typewritten matter.

*Mississippi Provincial Archives, English Dominion, 1763-1766.*

We begin this year a series of publications of documentary history from the English archives. The volume is the first published product from the very valuable transcripts from European archives which we have been collecting since 1906, and deals with the first three years of English dominion in West Florida. Treating, as it does, of the first coming of the English into what are now the Gulf States, east of the Mississippi river, it is an important source of American history, and affords to historical students a new source of information.

The publication by this Department of such historical sources, carefully edited, is one of the highest evidences of its usefulness.

*Transcripts of French Archives.*

The collection of transcripts from the French archives has been actively carried on since the last report. I was fortunate in the beginning in securing the services of one of the most careful copyists in Paris. In addition, we have had the benefit of the skillful direction and supervision of Mr. Waldo G. Leland, of the Department of Historical Research of the Carnegie Institution, who has been conducting historical investigation in the French archives for the past four years. We now have thirty volumes of these transcripts; and I feel quite safe in saying that the collection is the most valuable of its kind in the United States. Stu-





dents from New York, Washington, and Boston have come to Jackson to study our French transcripts and have been profuse in their praise of them.

*Calendar of French Archives Relating to History of Mississippi Basin.*

The important undertaking of calendaring the French archives relating to the history of the Mississippi Basin is nearing completion. As Chairman of the Committee of the American Historical Association, having that work in charge, I have kept in close touch with it from the beginning. We hope to make it a model calendar, through which all the States of the Mississippi Basin may locate and secure transcripts from the archive repositories in Paris of the documents which deal with the French occupation. The success of this, the first co-operative movement on the part of ten States with common historical interests, is certainly a forward movement in history preservation.

*Purchase of Early Natchez Newspaper Files.*

The Department's collection of newspapers has, heretofore, been weak and unsatisfactory for the territorial period of Mississippi history. Owing to a purchase, made since the last report, of a file of newspapers published at Natchez and Washington by Andrew Marschalk, the pioneer printer of Mississippi, we now have a most valuable newspaper source of our territorial history. The collection is a part of the office file; it has been preserved by Miss Mary Stewart, a descendant of Andrew Marschalk, and was purchased from her. A list of the papers follows:

Washington Republican (weekly):

- Vol. 1. April 13-Dec. 22, 1813.
- Vol. 2. Dec. 29, 1813-April 12, 1815. Bound together.
- Vol. 3. April 19, 1815-April 17, 1816.

Washington Republican and Natchez Intelligencer:

- Vol. 4. April 24, 1816-April 16, 1817.
- Vol. 5. April 23, 1817-Dec. 27, 1817. Bound together.



A few unbound numbers of the Mississippi Herald and Natchez Gazette from Vol. 16, April 15, 1806-June 10, 1807.

Mississippi Republican (weekly) :

Vol. 6. Jan. 14-April 16, 1818.

Vol. 7. April 17, 1818-Jan. 12, 1819. Bound together.

Vol. 7. Jan. 19, 1819-March 2, 1819.

Vol. 8. March 9, 1819-Jan. 25, 1820.

Vol. 9. Feb. 1, 1820-Oct. 31, 1820. Bound together.

Vol. 12. Oct. 17, 1822-June 19, 1823.

Vol. 13. June 26, 1823-Dec. 18, 1823.

Vol. 1. New series. Dec. 31, 1823-Dec. 22, 1824. Bound together.

A large number of scattered issues, from Vols. 5 to 12, 1817 to 1822, bound together.

Mississippi State Gazette (weekly) :

Vol. 6. Jan. 3, 1818-Dec. 30, 1818.

Vol. 7. Jan. 2, 1810-Dec. 25. (Published as weekly to Sept. 5, 1818, after that as semi-weekly till July, 1819.)

Vol. 6. (Duplicate) Jan. 3, 1818-Dec. 30, 1818.

Vol. 7. Jan. 2, 1819-Dec. 25. Bound together.

Vol. 7. (Duplicate) Jan. 6, 1819-Dec. 25, 1819.

Vol. 8. Jan. 1, 1820-Dec. 30, 1820. Bound together.

Vol. 8. (Duplicate) Jan. 1, 1820-Dec. 30, 1820.

Vol. 9. Jan. 6, 1821-Dec. 29, 1821.

Vol. 9. (Duplicate) Jan. 6, 1821-Dec. 29.

Vol. 10. Jan. 5, 1822-Dec. 14. Bound together.

Vol. 10. (Duplicate) Jan. 5, 1822-Dec. 28.

Vol. 11. Jan. 1, 1823-Dec. 27, 1823. (Published as semi-weekly from January to October, 1823.) Bound together.

Vol. 12. Jan. 3, 1824-Dec. 25, 1824.

Vol. 13. Jan. 1, 1825-Dec. 31, 1825. (Published as semi-weekly from May to October, 1825.)

Natchez Gazette (weekly) :

Vol. 14. Jan. 7, 1826-Dec. 30, 1826.

Vol. 24. Jan. 6, 1827-Feb. 10, 1827. Bound together.

Natchez Newspaper and Public Advertiser (weekly) :

Vol. 1. April 18, 1826-Dec. 20. Thirty-five numbers.

Mississippi Statesman:

Vol. 1. Dec. 23, 1826-Feb. 7, 1827.

Mississippi Statesman and Natchez Gazette:

Vol. 1. Feb. 14-Dec. 20, 1827. All three bound together.



Statesman and Gazette (weekly) :

Vol. 2. Dec. 27, 1827-Dec. 25, 1828.

Vol. 3. Jan. 1, 1829-Dec. 26. Bound together.

Southern Galaxy (weekly) :

Vol. 1. May 22, 1828-May 21, 1829.

Vol. 2. May 28, 1829-May 20, 1830. Bound together.

### *Current Newspaper Files.*

Three hundred and fifty bound volumes of current newspaper files have been added to the collection during the year. It has never been the policy of the Department to attempt to preserve files of all Mississippi newspapers, as such an accumulation would finally become unwieldy. We have a fairly complete file of about seventy-five representative Mississippi newspapers for the past ten years, and the shelving of these is fast becoming a problem. While the value of properly conducted newspapers as historical sources is recognized by all students, the use of such materials is a most prolific source of errors, and needs to be guarded by a careful verification of the data taken from them.

### *Colonial Dames Memorial Tablet.*

The Mississippi Society of the Colonial Dames of America at the annual meeting held in Natchez, May 26, 1910, voted that the society place a bronze tablet in the State Hall of Fame, commemorative of Spanish, French, and English dominion over what is now the State of Mississippi. The action of the society was communicated to the Department, June 2, by its President, Mrs. William Benneville Rhodes, of Natchez, and she was at once assured that the proposed commemorative tablet would be a most suitable and acceptable gift to the Department. The presentation was arranged for Washington's birthday, February 22, 1911. Mrs. Chalmers Meek Williamson, Regent of the Mississippi Society Daughters of the American Revolution, presided; Mrs. William Benneville Rhodes, State President of the Mississippi Society of Colonial Dames, presented the tablet, and it was accepted by Mrs. Dunbar Rowland, Assistant in the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.



*Official and Statistical Register for 1912.*

The preparation of the Mississippi Official and Statistical Register has largely occupied the attention of the Department during the past year. The Register is now regarded as a standard authority upon Mississippi history and the data contained in it has been accepted and used by the editors of the best encyclopedic publications of the day. The register of 1912 will contain the usual permanent features which have appeared in the issues of 1904 and of 1908, and, in addition, much new data will be included. A special appropriation of \$3,000.00 was made at the last session of the Legislature for the publication of the volume.

*National Archives Building.*

In June I went to Washington for the purpose of appearing before the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds of the House of Representatives in advocacy of the erection of a National Archives Building in Washington. A bill for that purpose had been introduced in the House by the Honorable Morris Sheppard, of Texas, Chairman of the committee, and hearings were being held. The friends of the movement are much indebted to Mr. Sheppard for the sympathetic and intelligent interest which he has taken in the proposed building.

On the suggestion of Honorable John Sharp Williams, I prepared a memorial to Congress upon the subject of a National Archives Building, which he presented to the Senate and which was printed as Senate document No. 64; it was also printed at the instance of Mr. Sheppard as Bulletin No. 18, hearings before the Committee of Public Buildings and Grounds relating to the preservation of government archives. Copies of my Indianapolis paper, the vote of the American Historical Association, and the memorial were placed in the hands of every Senator and Congressman. The memorial was also signed by Dr. Thomas M. Owen for the Alabama Department of Archives and History. We all delight to honor Dr. Owen as one of the pioneers in archive preservation.

The promoters of the National Archives Building movement are very hopeful of its final success.





In order that our record may be complete, the memorial presented by Senator Williams follows:

### SENATE.

Sixty,second Congress, First Session.

Document No. 64.

### NATIONAL ARCHIVES BUILDING.

Mr. Williams presented the following memorial of the Department of Archives and History of the States of Mississippi and Alabama, respectively, relative to a National Archives Building.

July 11, 1911—Ordered to be printed.

### MEMORIAL FOR A NATIONAL ARCHIVES BUILDING.

*To the Congress of the United States:*

We respectfully memorialize the Congress to provide for the concentration, care, preservation and classification of the historical records of the National Government which are now stored in more than 100 inadequate and unsuitable repositories in the city of Washington, where they can properly be used neither for administrative nor historical purposes. These records are the muniments of our national life; they contain the story of our achievements as a people, and their preservation now for the use of future generations is a duty which the nation owes to its history.

### UNSATISFACTORY CONDITIONS.

The National Government has never adopted a systematic plan for the care and preservation of the public archives. The records of the nation have been allowed to accumulate in the departments in which they originated; no provision has been made for the overflow which has been flooding the departments for more than half a century, and public archives of great historical value have been stuffed away in dusty garrets and damp cellars. When such places would hold no more, buildings were rented and records stored in them. It has been reliably stated that there are at present, in the city of Washington, at least 100 buildings which are used as archive repositories, and it has been estimated that the Government is paying \$50,000 a year for storage of the national archives. The rented buildings, in nearly every instance, are not fireproof, and are entirely unsuited for archive repositories.

### DESTRUCTION OF RECORDS.

The overcrowding of the departments with the national archives has been the cause of the destruction of valuable records simply for the



reason that there was no place to put them, and destruction was the easiest solution of the difficulty. In addition to deliberate destruction, the public archives have often been destroyed by fire on account of the failure to provide fireproof buildings for their preservation. While losses from these causes have been great, the damage and disintegration which have come about from overcrowding in garrets, cellars and other out-of-the-way places, have been far greater. Indeed, the extent of the loss from dust, moths, and mildew cannot be estimated. That it has been very great there can be no doubt. Manuscripts when folded, boxed and packed away, where the air and sunlight cannot get to them, deteriorate very rapidly, and when we remember that the national archives of the United States have been treated in that way for a century, it may be readily imagined how great the destruction has been.

#### REMEDY FOR EXISTING EVILS.

The archive evils now existing in the United States, traceable to early neglect, continue because of the failure to concentrate the nation's archives in one suitable building, planned and constructed for a national archive repository. Other nations have cured the evils from which we are now suffering, and the remedy has always been the same—that is, the concentration of all the national archives not necessary for administrative purposes in one suitable building located at the seat of government. England has had such a system in operation since 1856; France, Holland and Austria have adopted it; Saxony, one of the German kingdoms is about to erect one of the completest archive buildings in the world, and there are no nations in Europe which are not, in archive preservation, far in advance of our own. The experience of many years has demonstrated to European countries the wisdom of concentrating the national archives in a central repository.

#### ADVANTAGES OF CONCENTRATION.

The plan of concentrating the public records in a national archives building is very desirable from an administrative as well as from an historical standpoint. Under existing conditions long and laborious searches are frequently necessary in the daily administration of public affairs on account of crowded conditions and defective classification. A scientific system of preservation in a suitable archives building has these advantages:

- (1) It promotes the orderly and expeditious administration of public affairs.
- (2) It affords an opportunity of grasping the archive problem as a whole and brings expert knowledge to its solution.



(3) It gives notice to students and historians that in one well-arranged repository the entire documentary history of the nation may be found.

(4) It emphasizes the importance of the national archives as historical sources and encourages and stimulates the writing of accurate history.

(5) It promotes uniformity of administration, provides for a logical and systematic classification of historical material, and makes easier the study of any question or problem.

(6) It gives notice to the world that our country is regardful of the higher things in the conservation of its history.

In view of the foregoing facts, we respectfully petition the Congress to take the necessary steps for the erection of a national archives building at the seat of government.

Most respectfully submitted,

MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY,  
By DUNBAR ROWLAND, *Director*.

ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY,  
By THOMAS M. OWEN, *Director*.

Jackson, Miss., July 8, 1911.

### *Marking Historic Sites.*

The marking of historic sites in Mississippi has been undertaken by the Daughters of the American Revolution and the National Society of Colonial Dames in Mississippi. At the suggestion of the Department, the D. A. R.'s have decided to place markers at historic points along the Natchez Trace, such as Natchez, Washington, Grindstone Ford, Doak's Store, Letlores, and where the Trace crosses the Mississippi-Alabama line. A marker has been placed at Natchez and others are to be placed from time to time. The Colonial Dames were advised to mark the sites of Fort Maurepas and Fort Rosalie and they are now formulating plans for that purpose. The State should assist in this good work, and it is my purpose to include the marking of historic sites in the purposes for which the funds of the Department may be used in our next appropriation bill.



### *Butler Collection of Indian Antiquities.*

In August, last, I went to Lake George, Yazoo County, to see the Butler collection of Indian antiquities which was made by Mr. Brevort Butler, a skillful and reliable collector of that county who spent a life-time in making it. Mr. Butler died about two years ago and the heirs of his estate wish to sell the collection to the State. I was invited by Capt. James S. Butler, one of the heirs, to go over the collection and place a valuation upon it; I accepted the invitation and was his guest at Lake George for two days. The collection was carefully examined and found to be large and valuable and I am inclined to the opinion that it equals if it does not exceed in importance any other collection made by an individual for his own pleasure. There are about fourteen thousand articles in the collection and these represent about every kind of implement, ornament, or weapon used in the daily life of the Indians. I am very much of the opinion that the State should purchase the collection for preservation and display in this Department, if it can be bought at a reasonable valuation.

### *Visiting Historians.*

Historians continue to come to Jackson to work in our collections. Our large accumulation of transcripts and the accessibility of original records have attracted the attention of students, both at home and abroad, to such an extent that they are in great demand. There is an entire absence of red tape in the use of the records, and this has encouraged serious historical students.

### *Classification of Archives.*

We are now in a position to see the end of the work of classifying the archives of the Department, which has been going on for the past ten years. The work has been carefully done, and when it is completed we may congratulate ourselves upon the fact that Mississippi is the first State in the Union to undertake and complete such a task. The magnitude of the undertaking may be understood only by those who have some knowledge of the chaotic condition of the State's archives when they were





turned over to this Department in 1902. While the work has at times been a supreme test of patience, it has been accomplished by persevering effort. The value of such a classification is incalculable. Of what use is an important historical record if it is lost in a confused mass of papers? For all practical purposes it might as well be out of existence. Make it accessible and you have done something of value. Make the accumulated archives of a century, which contain the history of a great State, accessible and you have made a lasting contribution to historical science.

### *Hall of Fame—Museum.*

The entire wall space of the Hall of Fame is now filled with excellent oil portraits of distinguished Mississippians. The collection is one of unusual merit when the method by which it was gathered together is considered. It was feared in the beginning—and that feeling was entirely natural—that many portraits of inferior quality would find their way into the collection through gifts, but that fear has proved to be unfounded, as in every instance the donors of portraits have asked for advice, and, in the main, have secured the best obtainable talent. Some great portrait painters are represented in the gallery; and we have every reason to be proud of our Hall of Fame.

It is unfortunate that it has been found necessary, on account of want of room, to keep our display of historical relics in the Hall of Fame. The museum has now reached the point when its extent and value require a large exhibition room. This crowded condition of affairs extends to all divisions of the work, additional office room is needed, and the archives division is much too small for the demands upon it.

### *Portrait of Gov. Robert Williams.*

Our collection of governors of Mississippi Territory has been incomplete up to this time. We failed for many years to secure a likeness of Governor Robert Williams, although diligent efforts to find one were put forth. We have at last, through the kindness of Mrs. A. Mc. Kimbrough, of Greenwood, Miss., a descendant of a sister of Governor Williams, secured a beautiful miniature



of him, from which an oil portrait is to be made. Mrs. Kimbrough has generously agreed to allow the Department to keep the miniature until the portrait is hung.

### *Preservation of the Old Capitol.*

In the second annual report of this Department, which was written just before leaving the old capitol for the new in September, 1903, the suggestion was made that the old building should be preserved for historical purposes. Since that time the patriotic organizations of the State have urged its preservation upon the Legislature, while on the other hand, efforts have been made to sell the entire property. For eight years, mainly through the efforts of our patriotic and State-loving women, the effort to sell the old capitol has been prevented. The sentiment for its preservation has been gaining force year by year until now there is little or no opposition to it. A well directed movement, with much popular support behind it, for the preservation of the historic old building for the use of this Department has been inaugurated, and a bill with that end in view will be introduced at the January session of the Legislature. It is understood that the plan contemplates making the building a fire-proof repository for all the collections of the Historical Department. It is hardly necessary to add that the proposal has the approval and support of the Director, and I hope that the Board will express its approval at this meeting.

### *Judge J. A. P. Campbell's Gift.*

No one has felt a greater interest in the success and progress of the Historical Department than has Judge J. A. P. Campbell, who ranks with the great Chief Justices of the South, and who is the last surviving signer of the first or provisional constitution of the Confederate States of America. The original of that great charter of constitutional liberty is preserved in the "White House of the Confederacy," known as the Confederate Museum in Richmond. The parchment upon which the constitution is written is in the form of a roll after the manner of the ancient rolls of England. A *facsimile* of the signatures has been made



and Judge Campbell has very generously presented to the Department the one which came to him as one of the signers. In addition to this he has also presented a *facsimile* photograph of the fifty-cent silver piece issued by the Confederate States.

### *Binding Manuscripts.*

By next spring the classification of the archives of the Department will be completed, and the next step to take will be placing the manuscripts in permanent volumes provided with helps for their use by students. We cannot hope to accomplish this all at once with the funds that are available, but the work of mounting and binding will proceed as soon as the entire collection has been classified. In the mean time, students will have access to all classified records in the unbound condition.

### *Conclusion.*

We are near the end of a most interesting period in our work. The experience of ten years has made us more anxious to add further and greater achievements to our record. For ten years you have held up my hands and sustained me in every good work. We have had no dissensions in our ranks; our cause has been strengthened by unity of action, and I am quite sure that all of our undertakings have had one end in view—that is the honor and advancement of the State. I appreciate more than I can tell you the approval of such a body of men.

Very respectfully submitted.

DUNBAR ROWLAND,  
*Director.*



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